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6-1-2012

# The Topper (June 2012)

Veterans Upward Bound Program, Western Kentucky University

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# THE TOPPER

## VETERANS UPWARD BOUND ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

**V**eterans Upward Bound held their 20th annual awards banquet at the Carroll Knicely Conference Center on WKU's south campus on May 5.

This year's banquet was the sixth year of awarding the Col. Joe Wright Memorial Scholarship sponsored by the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). The recipients of the two \$600 scholarship were Gennie Cherry and Teresa Jameson.



Gennie Cherry, Student of the Year Award & MOAA Scholarship

Gennie will be attending Hopkinsville Community College this fall majoring in accounting. Gennie is also this year's nominee for the NAVUB scholarship. The winner will be announced by July 2, 2012. Gennie was also awarded VUB's *Student of the Year* for 2012. Teresa is attending WKU and is majoring in social studies and history.

Other scholarship recipients were Kevin Roedl, receiving a scholarship of \$500 from the local Veterans of

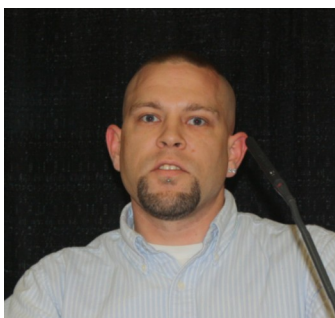
Foreign Wars. Ryan Maynard received the \$500 scholarship from the local American Legion.



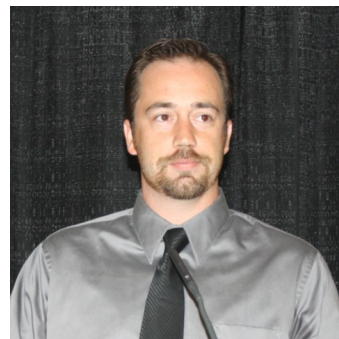
Teresa Jameson, MOAA Scholarship, Achievement Scholarship & Student Support Services Provost Scholarship

For the first time, VUB awarded Achievement Scholarships of \$500 to alumni attending postsecondary schools. These students were:

- Jason Adkison—WKU
- Jerry Carrell—WKU
- Julian Heinze—WKU
- Teresa Jameson—WKU
- Ryan Maynard—BGTC
- Philip Parsons—Hopkinsville CC
- David Phelps—WKU



Kevin Roedl, VFW Scholarship



Ryan Maynard, American Legion Scholarship & Achievement Scholarship

David Angle awarded VUB's *Alumni of the Year* for 2012 to David Phelps. David is graduating from WKU this December with a Bachelors in Systems Management.



David Lynn, Dare to Dream Award

Rick Wright awarded VUB's *Dare to Dream* for 2012 to David Lynn. David is attending Volunteer State Community College working on an Associate's Degree in EMT-Paramedicine.

VUB students that have completed our program and applied to or enrolled in

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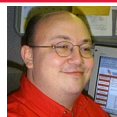
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postsecondary education during 2011/2012 received achievement certificates. These students were:

- Brandon Coffey—WKU, Educational & Behavioral Science
- William Grimes—WKU, no major declared
- Teresa Jameson—WKU, Social Studies & History
- Mike Law—BGTC, Collision Repair Technology
- Philip Parsons—Hopkinsville CC, Humans Services

Other degree completers were:

WKU Graduates:

- Michael Rigg, Dec 2011—BS in Political Science
- Chester McNulty, May 2012—BS in Recreation Administration
- Bob Wilson, May 2012—BS in Interdisciplinary Studies
- Penny Allison, Dec 2012—BS in Education Middle Grades
- Ray Durlin, Dec 2012—BS in Business Management
- Nick Orberon, Dec 2012—BS in Business Management
- David Phelps, Dec 2012—BS in Systems Management

DAYMAR Graduates:

- Christopher Pasley, Mar 2012—AS in Business Management

Teresa Jameson, a recent Veterans Upward Bound participant, was one of five winners of the Student Support Services Provost Scholarship for the Fall 2012 semester. Each student was required to write an essay regarding a difficult situation they encountered or advice on surviving the college experience.

Teresa chose the first topic and wrote about a challenging time for her during the first Gulf War. Other qualifications required the students to have above a 2.0 GPA, be full-

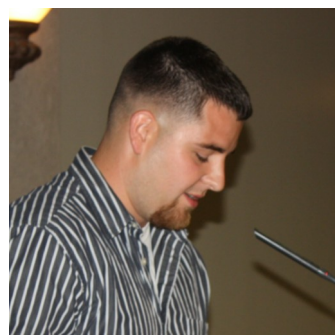
time students in the fall and be an active Student Support Services participant. Teresa is an exceptional student and has an amazing work ethic and drive. She has proved she is very deserving of this scholarship.

We here at VUB wish to extend thanks to all our guests who attended this year's banquet and made it a resounding success. We want to remind all our students that we owe our success to your participation in our program.

The scholarships we make available is our way of honoring a few of those students. Those students interested in scholarship opportunities for next year should apply between mid-March to early spring. Check with VUB if you are interested: 745-5310.



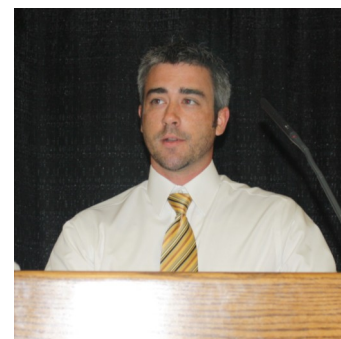
Philip Parsons, Achievement Scholarship



Jason Adkison, Achievement Scholarship



Martha Kenney, VUB director and Tonya Archey, Military Student Services director



John Rose, BGTC VA Certifying Official



Martha Kenney, VUB director and Chris George, Student Support Services director



Schella Smith, WKU VA Certifying Official





Martha R. Kenney  
Director

## The Director's Desk



Just some guidelines from a poster I saw a few days ago—hope you might find 1 or 2 helpful in your life!

**Take Time to Appreciate the Moment! Be Generous and Truthful**

**Dance, Sing and Play—No Matter What Your AGE!**

**EMBRACE NEW POSSIBILITIES**

**MAKE FRIENDS EVERYWHERE YOU GO INSPIRE SOMEONE**

**BE BRAVE Take Chances and Be Spontaneous**

**DISCOVER YOUR GIFTS AND USE THEM WISELY**

**SURROUND YOURSELF WITH LOVE LAUGHTER AND TRUTH!**

**FORGIVE QUICKLY SEEK PEACE AND CALM CREATE HAPPINESS**

**ENJOY THE LITTLE THINGS “AND THE LITTLE ONES” BE GRACIOUS & KIND**

**LEARN SOMETHING NEW EVERY DAY!**

Take time for the outstanding last lecture from Randy Pausch @ [www.cmu.edu/randyslecture/](http://www.cmu.edu/randyslecture/)

**“FAREWELL & ALOHA TO ALL”**

\*as I will be retiring from WKU on 8-1-2012, MRK

\*READ THE FINE PRINT! 😊

**THE TOPPER** is published three times yearly by the *Veterans Upward Bound Project* at *Western Kentucky University*. VUB is funded by a grant from the *U.S. Department of Education*. The opinions expressed within this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the position or policy of either the *U.S. Department of Education* or *WKU*, and no official endorsement should be inferred.

## Notes and News

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS



The Department of Veterans Affairs partnered with the First Army at camp Shelby, MS, to launch a streamlined version of its online application for VA health benefits (VA Form 1010EZ) for servicemembers returning from deployment. The VA will introduce it at demobilization sites nationwide by spring 2012.

The application is used to enroll in the VA health care system, which has more than 1,000 sites of care across the country. Enrollment for VA health care is done as part of a servicemember's demobilization. The online form allows the application to be completed during a regularly scheduled briefing for all servicemembers on VA benefits.

Quick enrollment is important for returning troops because recently discharged combat veterans are eligible for five years of cost-free care and medications for conditions potentially related to combat service.

The new application was piloted as part of the demobilization process at Camp Shelby. Based on the results, the VA plans to collaborate with the Department of Defense to offer this online application at all 61 demobilization sites nationally.

For more information, servicemembers may contact the VA at 1-877-222-8387 or visit [www.va.gov/healthbenefits](http://www.va.gov/healthbenefits).



## THE TOPPER

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**WKU**

## TBI In Veterans Likened To Those In Athletes

**S**cientists who have studied a degenerative brain disease in athletes have found the same condition in combat veterans exposed to roadside bombs in Iraq and Afghanistan, concluding that such explosions injure the brain in ways strikingly similar to tackles and punches.

The researchers also discovered what they believe is the mechanism by which explosions damage brain tissue and trigger the wasting disease, called chronic traumatic encephalopathy, or C.T.E.

The evidence suggests that some and perhaps many combat veterans with TBI are at risk of developing long-term neurological disease — a finding that, if confirmed, would have profound implications for military policy, veterans programs and future research.

The study could provide a starting point for developing preventive measures for blast-related brain injuries, as well as drug therapies and diagnostic tests for C.T.E., an incurable disease detected only by autopsy.

Since 2001, the military has confirmed TBI — widely considered the precursor to C.T.E. — in more than 220,000 of the 2.3

million troops who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan, though some experts believe the actual number is higher. There is no way yet of estimating how many of those combat veterans may develop the disease.

C.T.E. causes neurological decay and is linked to memory loss, personality changes, impaired judgment, depression and dementia. A once obscure disorder thought mainly to afflict boxers, it has entered the popular lexicon in recent years as more athletes have received the diagnosis.

Dr. McKee, director of a brain donation center at the VA medical center in Bedford, MA, compared tissue samples from those of vets with the brains of athletes. She also studied the brains of people with no records of concussions.

In all the veterans and athletes, she found the signature evidence of C.T.E.: dead or dying neurons and damaged axons, the fibers that transmit signals between nerve cells. She found no evidence of the disease in the people with no reported concussions.

(The preceding article was adapted from an article in the May 16, 2012 issue of the NY Times)



## Important Numbers and Dates

**Schella Smith, WKU VA Certifying Official**  
(270) 745-3732

**Stephanie Gabbard, VA Voc-Rehab, B.G. Office**  
(270) 846-2092

**Military Student Services, WKU**  
(270) 745-5837

**Department of Employment Services, Bowling Green**  
Gerry Neely (270) 746-7425 Ext. 104

**VA Regional Office, Louisville**  
(800) 827-1000

**VA Regional Office, Nashville, TN**  
(615) 695-6372

**VA Medical Center, Louisville**  
(502) 287-4000

**VA Medical Center, Nashville, TN**  
(800) 228-4973

**Military Records Branch, Frankfort**  
(502) 564-4883

**Disabled American Veterans, Louisville**  
(800) 333-1720

**American Legion, Bowling Green**  
(270) 781-3574 Veterans Service Officer  
**Veterans of Foreign Wars, Bowling Green**  
(270) 781-1872

**JUN 9**

**ACT Test Date**

**JUL 4**

**Independence Day, VUB Closed**

**AUG 2**

**Last Day of VUB Summer Classes**

**AUG 17**

**Registration Deadline for ACT, Sep 8**

**AUG 20**

**First Day of VUB Fall Classes**

**SEP 3**

**Labor Day, VUB Closed**

**SEP 8**

**ACT Test Date**

**SEP 11**

**Patriot Day**

**SEP 21**

**Registration Deadline for ACT, OCT 27**

**OCT 27**

**ACT Test Date**

**NOV 11**

**Veterans Day**

\*Please call early for information on test dates. VUB may pay testing fees, but to do so we must have your application at least six weeks prior to the registration postmark deadline.